



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 4, 2004
NR04-037

Reminder of Vessel Permit, Dealer Permit, and Vessel Operator Permit Card Requirements in the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery in Federal Waters of the Atlantic

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) reminds Atlantic (Maine through the east coast of Florida) dolphin-wahoo commercial vessel owners and operators, charter vessel/headboat owners and operators, and dealers of new federal permit requirements approved under the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic (FMP). The FMP was developed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils.

- **Charter Vessel/Headboat Permits, Effective September 24, 2004:** To possess a dolphin or wahoo in or from Atlantic federal waters on board a charter vessel or headboat, a dolphin-wahoo charter vessel/headboat permit must have been issued by the Southeast Region of NOAA Fisheries and be on board that vessel.
- **Commercial Vessel Permits, Effective September 24, 2004:** For a person aboard a vessel to be eligible for exemption from the dolphin-wahoo bag and possession limits in or from Atlantic federal waters or to sell such dolphin or wahoo, a dolphin-wahoo commercial vessel permit must have been issued by the Southeast Region of NOAA Fisheries and be on board that vessel. An owner of a charter vessel or headboat who desires to sell dolphin will be required to obtain a dolphin-wahoo commercial vessel permit in addition to the charter vessel/headboat permit.

If you wish to add the dolphin-wahoo charter vessel/headboat and/or commercial permit types to a vessel that is currently federally permitted by the Southeast Region, you must return a written request (no application) with a check or money order made payable to the U.S. Treasury (\$20 for each additional permit type) to NOAA Fisheries, Permits Branch, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. If you instead wish to add either the dolphin-wahoo charter vessel/headboat and/or commercial permit types to a vessel that is not currently federally permitted by the Southeast Region, you must complete a new vessel permit application available from NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Region, Permits Branch or at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

- **Dealer Permits, Effective September 24, 2004:** An Atlantic dolphin-wahoo dealer must obtain a dealer permit issued by the Southeast Region of NOAA Fisheries. "Dealer" is defined as a person who first receives fish by way of purchase, barter, or trade, or who first receives dolphin or wahoo harvested from Atlantic federal waters upon transfer ashore.

If you wish to add the dolphin-wahoo dealer permit type and already have other dealer permits issued by the Southeast Region, you must return a written request (no application) with a check or money order made payable to the U.S. Treasury (\$25 for the additional permit) to NOAA Fisheries, Permits Branch, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. If you instead wish to obtain a dolphin-wahoo dealer permit but have no other dealer permits issued by the Southeast Region, you must complete a new dealer permit application available from NOAA Fisheries, Permits Branch, or at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

- **Charter Vessel/Headboat/Commercial Vessel Operator Permits Cards, Effective November 23, 2004:** An operator of a commercial vessel, charter vessel, or headboat that is required to have a federal dolphin-wahoo vessel permit must have and display an operator permit card issued by the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region. The FMP proposed the operator permit card requirement to enhance enforcement of fishery regulations. **An operator permit card issued by the NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Region for the Fisheries of the Northeastern United States or for the American Lobster Fishery do not meet the Atlantic dolphin-wahoo operator permit card requirement. You must also obtain an operator permit card for Atlantic dolphin-wahoo from the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Region.**

NOAA Fisheries is in the process of revising regulations to allow the issuance of a single operator permit card for use in applicable Northeast and Southeast fisheries. Until those regulations are revised, an operator permit card issued by the Southeast Region is valid for any fishery for which the Southeast Region requires an operator permit card (i.e., South Atlantic rock shrimp and/or Atlantic dolphin-wahoo). Operator permit card applications are available from NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Region, Permits Branch, or at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and require two recent color, unobstructed passport size photos no more than one year old, and a \$50 check or money order made payable to the U.S. Treasury.

Completed application forms and all required supporting documents, or add-on permit requests, must be submitted to NOAA Fisheries at least 30 days prior to the date on which you wish to have the permit made effective. For further information on how to obtain a vessel permit, dealer permit, or operator permit card from the Southeast Region, contact the NOAA Fisheries, Permits Branch, 9721 Executive Center Drive North, St. Petersburg, FL, 33702, or by phone at 727-570-5326 between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., eastern time, Monday through Friday.

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Department of Commerce.



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